



# MONTEREY NEWS

March 2003  
VOLUME XXXIII • Number 3



## The Town

### February Blues

More snow and cold weather kept many residents at home and sent some to warmer climates for relief. Heavy rain and icing over the last weekend finally pushed the road maintenance budget over the edge. To add insult to injury, the police cruiser was heavily damaged in an accident when it slid into a snowbank and was then hit from behind.

### Carry On

During the three meetings held in February the Selectboard wrapped up old business and began to prepare for Annual Town Meeting. The "old" had to do primarily with the new Town Hall. To the great relief of all, the Town was able to award the bid for Phase Two construction of the Town Hall to Cardan Construction of Pittsfield, Gennari Plumbing and Heating of Great Barrington, and R. A. Wilson Electrical of Pittsfield for a bid of \$299,829. Provided that all goes well at the March 10 hearing for the Notice of Intent, construction will begin sometime this spring.

### Begin the Budget

The process of formulating the Town Warrant has begun with the submission by Town Boards and officials of their budget requests for the coming fiscal year. The Selectboard will meet with at



Photo courtesy Kip Blasco

*The Beartown Mountain Ramblers will perform at the March 12 community dinner (see p. 3).*

least one member of the Finance Committee on March 3 to review what has come in to date. In spite of reduced state funds, most departments are requesting increases in funding and some capital expenses are anticipated. A detailed review will appear in next month's issue of the *News*. Especially relevant will be the impact of decisions the Selectboard makes about salary increases for Town employees next year. Barbara Gauthier is making up projections of the impact of the different salary schedules offered by the Salary Committee.

### Town Meeting

Town Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, May 3. The Selectboard set March 10 as the deadline for petitions that can be

placed on the Warrant. There was discussion of when informational meetings might take place. It was suggested that one be scheduled before the Warrant was printed and another scheduled closer to the date of Town Meeting, possibly April 25. Republican and Democratic Town Committees have been meeting to discuss the possible slates of candidates for seats on various Town Boards. At this time vacancies will occur for the Board of Appeals, Board of Assessors, Board of Health, Cemetery Committee, Finance Committee, Library Trustees, Park Commission, Planning Board, and Selectboard. Town Clerk, Moderator, and Tree Warden will also be on the ballot. Interested persons should contact the parties or may take out nomination papers as



independent candidates by contacting the Town Clerk. Democrats meet March 10 at 7 p.m. and Republicans March 6 at 7:30 p.m. The Selectboard will propose an article for the Warrant increasing the Park Commission to five members. This will require a prior public hearing as a bylaw change.

## Planning Board

Claudia Weldon of the Planning Board visited to urge the Selectboard to support a statewide initiative to reform zoning. Legislation was filed in 2002 as the Massachusetts Land Use Reform Act. Massachusetts is distinguished in having some of the most outdated state land-use laws in the nation, requiring no consistency between local planning and land-use regulations. It is the only state that allows unlimited creation of building lots along roadsides without review, which contributes to sprawl and is often at odds with towns' master plans. If adopted, the act will provide individual towns greater flexibility in determining their own future. For more information go to [www.masszoningreform.org](http://www.masszoningreform.org). Ms. Weldon also expressed concern that the immediate need for planning and zoning reform requires an investment by the

Town and an even greater commitment on the part of Planning Board members to bring this about.

## Police Matters

The Selectboard appointed Carmelo Guarda of Housatonic as a part-time patrolman for the Monterey Police Department. The Board reaffirmed their support for "community" policing. Officer Walter Nourse has been holding down the fort with backup from the Great Barrington force while Chief Backhaus has been taking a well-deserved vacation. A federal COPS Grant will provide 75 percent funding to hire a second full-time police officer. Over three years, Monterey will become fully responsible for salary and benefits for the additional officer.



## Our Scenic Mountains

The Conservation Commission has set a Public Hearing of the Scenic Mountain Act for Thursday, March 13, at 6 p.m. in the Town Hall. The act grants the Town the right to regulate activities that impact ridgelines and views and potentially affect water quality, as is happening in the Lake Garfield watershed. Copies of the proposed regulations and a map of the areas that would be protected will be available at the meeting. All are urged to attend.

## Public Record

Although some debate the value of the Annual Town Report it remains a public record of some aspect of Town life and provides an opportunity for Boards to report directly to the public. Bonnie Jurgenson announced that the 2001 Town Report is compiled. She will print and staple the report herself at the Town Offices, at a savings to the Town.

A Computer Coordinator and Advisory Committee was authorized at Town Meeting in 1991, and the Selectboard has been discussing filling this position.

The goal is to get all Town records backed up on the server. The issue of what is public record and where it is stored, access and privacy, has figured in several discussions by the Board.

Assessors have added evening office hours on Wednesday from 7-8 p.m. and appreciate a call in advance. Gary Shaw is leaving the Board of Assessors. Muriel Lazzarini attended a meeting of Select boards from school district towns, some of which will be hit very hard by state cutbacks. "Monterey is okay so far," she says.

CDC (Community Development Corporation) will meet on Monday, March 10, in the evening to discuss the Town's Master Plan. The LEPC (Local Emergency Planning Committee) met to

### Peter S. Vallianos Attorney at Law 528-0055

General practice includes real estate purchases, sales, family transfers and transfers in trust, zoning, land use matters, conservation restrictions, landlord-tenant; wills, probate; commercial law.

\*\*\*

I will meet with you at your home in Monterey.

The *Monterey News* is published monthly under the auspices of Monterey United Church of Christ, Monterey, MA 01245.

## HOW IS IT MADE?

Saturday, August 30, 2003  
at the Monterey Fire House  
Pavilion

10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

No entrance fee required  
Number of participants limited

*The Monterey Cultural Council is seeking applications from local Artists and Artisans for a juried art event titled "HOW IS IT MADE?"*

*The focus of the event will be on individual demonstrations of process and technique, with sales permitted.*

**APPLICATION DEADLINE FOR FIRST  
ROUND OF JURYING MARCH 10, 2003**

For applications call or stop by the Monterey Town Hall (413-528-1443)



finalize an application for Start-up Certification on February 4. Townfolk are reminded to prepare emergency supply kits as a matter of course. There will be more details on this later.

Judy Kales, who has been Secretary to the Selectboard for thirty years is recovering at home following several weeks in hospital from complications related to diabetes. We wish her a speedy recovery. Candace Thayer will be leaving the Bidwell House.

### Fire Co. Shows off New Truck

Townspeople had an opportunity to get a firsthand look at the new fire truck on Sunday, February 16. Fire Company members were on hand for guided tours. It was truly impressive to sit in the cab and get a look the features that make a difficult job a little easier.

### Public Access

Michael Feltser, an ambassador from the "Coffee Club," visited the Selectboard on February 24 to find out how the Public Access Committee was progressing. The Board stated that they had no minutes from the meetings but hoped that the Committee was following their instructions to investigate all possible alternate locations for a boat ramp. A lively discussion revisited this issue and several others and it was resolved to find out what's going on.

And that's not all, folks ...

— Michele Miller

## Journey Through Bluegrass Music at March 12th Community Dinner

Bluegrass has been called music's version of the Slow Food Movement—homespun, authentic, and familiar, with tunes steeped in local places and rich tradition. Appropriately, the next Community Dinner, with its own tradition of fine potluck fare and good company, will feature The Beartown Mountain Ramblers as its after-dinner program. In "A Journey Through Bluegrass Music" the band will explore the origins and techniques that characterize bluegrass, highlighting the unique features that make up this old style music.

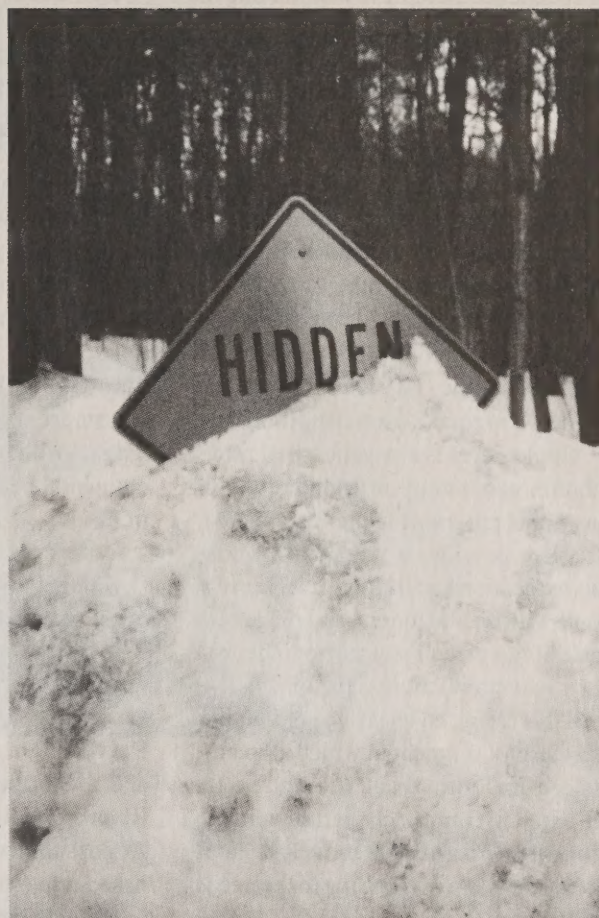
The Ramblers—Tom Barnes on guitar, Lukas Schwartz on fiddle, Dave Barney on five-string banjo, and Monterey's own Matt Downing on bass and Kip Beacco on mandolin—have a much to share. Tom began playing bluegrass as a young teenager forty-two years ago in his native Missouri, and the Ramblers' combined experience spans many years

and includes a variety of bands that have played throughout the U.S. and Canada.

Those who have seen the Ramblers' Monterey concerts benefiting the Heifer project this year know the band adheres to true bluegrass tradition, gathering around a single microphone to perform an array of ballads, fiddle tunes, banjo pickin' breakdowns, waltzes, and gospel songs, spiced with good down-home humor.

Bluegrass has always been about homefolks, and so have the Monterey dinners. Everyone is invited to join neighbors and friends at 6:00 p.m. on March 12th in the Meetinghouse Fellowship Hall. Please bring enough food to share and your own silverware and plates.

— Dianna Downing



Glynis Oliver

Winter's tale

## Curtin Roofing/Carpentry

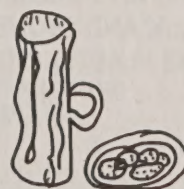
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## Gould Farm Has Biggest Fund-Raising Year in 2002

Catherine A. Tower, Executive Director of William J. Gould Associates, Inc. (Gould Farm), reports that the Farm raised a record level of contributions in 2002, surpassing any other year in its history. By December 31 the Farm had realized gifts totaling \$505,000 for its Annual Fund, the Harvest Barn, and the Wellness Program's Exercise Room.

Gould Farm is a psychosocial rehabilitation community in Monterey with transitional programs in the Boston area. The Farm provides a therapeutic vocational education and training program for people with mental illness, assisting them in attaining a greater measure of independence and productivity. Established in 1913, this caring and healing community offers an environment in which all members can find respite and draw strength, and expects from each participant the willingness to participate actively to helping oneself while responding to the needs of others.

The Harvest Barn, scheduled to open this spring, will integrate many aspects of Gould Farm's environmentally bountiful organic farming community including horticulture/greenhouse management, food processing and basic food

preparation, cheese production, small engine and equipment repair, woodworking, marketing, product development, and childcare.

The Exercise Room is part of the Farm's increased focus on guests' overall wellness. While residents at the Farm are physically active, participating in thirty hours of on-site work each week in addition to facing the challenges of their illness, the medications required for treatment often result in side effects. Guests are supported through these challenges with educational presentations on mental health issues, exercise, nutrition, and a variety of stress reduction activities.

The Farm has scheduled several events in celebration of its 90th anniversary this year. Among them are the annual dinner dance on April 11 (call Rita Kasky at the Farm for information), the Harvest Barn ribbon cutting on April 12, and a conference in collaboration with Riverbrook Residence in Stockbridge in August that will focus on community-based rehabilitation.

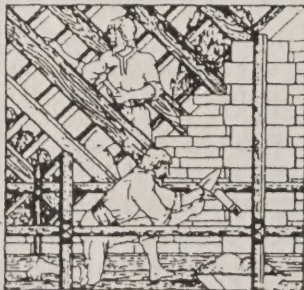
Gould Farm welcomes visitors. Visit our Roadside Store & Café on Rte. 23 in Monterey or call the Farm at 413-528-1804 and make an appointment to come for a tour.

— Rita Kasky



## Local Writers Sought for April Community Dinner

The program for the April 9th Monterey community dinner will be local writers reading from their work. A similar reading last spring was one of the most popular community dinner programs, thanks to the abundance of local talent. Will Marsh and Glynis Oliver will serve as the organizers and hosts for the program, so writers interested in participating are encouraged to contact them at 528-4347 to sign up. This is the chance to share what you have been working on with your neighbors.



## MONTEREY MASONRY

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## Monterey Resident Receives Fulbright

Sheila Intner, Monterey resident and Simmons College Graduate School of Library and Information Science professor emerita, has been awarded the Fulbright Senior Specialists grant in Library Sciences at Bar Ilan University in Israel.

The Fulbright Senior Specialists Program offers two- to six-week grants to leading U.S. academics and professionals to support curricular and faculty development and institutional planning at academic institutions in 140 countries around the world. The Senior Specialists Program aims at increasing the number of faculty and professionals who have the opportunity to go abroad on a Fulbright grant.

Grantees will take on many activities, ranging from conducting teacher training and developing and assessing curricula or educational materials, to leading seminars or workshops and conducting needs assessments.

Recipient of Fulbright awards are selected on the basis of academic or professional achievement and because they have demonstrated extraordinary leadership potential in their fields.

Simmons College is a nationally recognized, small, private, predominantly women's university in the heart of Boston. It has undergraduate programs for women and graduate programs for women and men.



Glynnis Oliver

*Rawson Brook*

### Daffodil Pick-Up March 26

Don't forget!!! Pick up the daffodils you ordered to benefit cancer on Wednesday, March 26, at the Monterey General Store.

Thanks so much for participating in this and donating funds for the American Cancer Society to continue their good work. Monterey always does a good job.

— Fran Amidon, Chmn.

### Rabies Clinic March 15

The annual rabies clinic for dogs and cats will be held at the Monterey Firehouse on Saturday, March 15, from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. Dr. Marge Gulick of Bilmar Veterinary Services will once again be on hand to give rabies shots to your pets. The fee for the shot is \$9.00. Dog licenses will also be available.

☸

#### MONTEREY LIBRARY

Monday ..... 7-9 p.m.  
Tuesday ..... 9:30 a.m.-noon  
Wednesday ..... 3-5 p.m.  
Saturday ..... 9:30 a.m.-noon  
..... 7-9 p.m.

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Elizabeth Goodman, Pastor

For Information and Assistance:  
528-5850



## Talk by Author Michael Pollan

Michael Pollan, science journalist and best-selling author will give a talk on "Following the Food Chain: The Politics and Ecology of Eating" on Sunday, March 16, at 2:00 p.m. at St. James Church, 352 Main Street, Great Barrington. Admission will be \$10 at the door.

Mr. Pollan will talk about the lessons he learned following a steer, an organic TV dinner, and a genetically modified potato through the food chain. He will share his experience of the tension between the laws of ecology and economics, his insights into saving land and the way we eat, and alternatives to the industrial food chain.

Pollan is the author of *New York Times* best-seller, *The Botany of Desire: A Plant's-Eye View of the World* (available at the Monterey Library), and other books. His writing has received numerous awards, including the John Burroughs Prize (for best history essay, 1997), the QPB New Vision Award (for his first book, *Second Nature*) and the 2000 Reuters-I.U.C.N. Global Award for Environmental Journalism for his reporting on genetic engineering. The American Booksellers Association and Amazon recognized *The Botany of Desire* as a 2001 best book of the year.

In addition to three books, Michael Pollan's work includes many anthologies, notably *Best American Essays* and the *Norton Book of Nature Writing*. He is published regularly in the *New York Times Magazine*, and his articles have appeared in *Harper's*, *Vogue*, *Gourmet*, *Travel & Leisure*, *Garden Design*, *Gardens Illustrated*, and *House & Garden*. He is also a contributing editor at

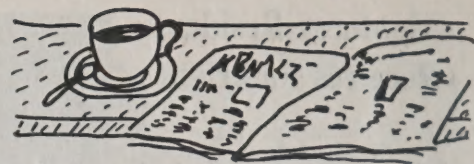
*Harper's Magazine*, where he served for many years as Executive Editor.

Pollan has been particularly successful in creating public interest in science and nature through stories on botanical evolution, the beef industry, genetic engineering, a welfare system for corn agribusiness, and destruction of the Cathedral of Pines preserve, in Connecticut. He wrote "This Steer's Life: the highly unnatural journey of No. 534 from calf to steak," the March 31, 2002, *New York Times Magazine* cover story that detailed the unsavory practices of the American beef industry. In recognition of his accomplishments as a science journalist, he was recently appointed the 2003 Knight Professor of Journalism at the University of California, Berkeley.

Pollan grew up on Long Island and was educated at Bennington College, Oxford University, and Columbia University. He lives in Cornwall Bridge, Connecticut, with his wife, the painter Judith Belzer, and their son. He is currently writing a book about food production.

The lecture is sponsored by the Great Barrington Land Conservancy, a nonprofit membership organization dedicated to preserving and enhancing the community's natural resources and distinctive character through land-use planning, conservation, and limited development initiatives.

Cosponsors include Berkshire Coop Market, Berkshire Grown, Berkshire Natural Resources Council, Community Land Trust of the Southern Berkshires, Eastern Native Seed Conservancy, E. F. Schumacher Society, Foggy River Farm, Indian Line Farm, New England Heritage Breeds Conservancy, New England Livestock Alliance, Orion Magazine, and Taft Farms.



## How Is It Made?

### Cultural Council Seeks Local Artists for Event

The Monterey Cultural Council is seeking applications from local artists and artisans for a juried art event to be titled "How Is It Made?" With the idea of creating an educational opportunity for the community, we envision a broad range of artistic representation, from fine arts to hand craftsmanship. Thus the focus of the event will be on individual demonstrations of process and technique, with sales permitted. Accepted artists will be expected to be prepared to discuss "how they do what they do" with the public in order to deepen everyone's appreciation for the skill, talent, and creative energy involved in producing the artwork.

The event will be held at the Monterey Firehouse Pavilion on Saturday, August 30, 2003, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. No entrance fee is required nor commissions on sales charged. The application deadline for the first round of jurying is March 10; the number of participants will be limited, so be sure to apply now. For applications visit or call the Monterey Town Offices at 413-528-1443.

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## Green Corner Bulletin Green Construction

When we renovated our home, environmentally preferable alternatives rarely came up in the options suggested to us by our contractors. Thanks to the Pittsfield-based Center for Ecological Technology (CET), we became more aware of thousands of safer products that are available and affordable. This allowed smart choices with a lasting positive impact on our family, environment, and community.

To find information about construction options, first review some of the latest magazines dedicated to cottages, bungalows, and cabins. Many specialize in "timeless architecture," providing useful information on using design and technology to help you utilize a minimum of operating resources without compromising the warmth, health, comfort, and beauty of your home. The Internet is now an incredible resource as well. Try a "Google search" on Green Construction to start.

Asking good questions and letting your contractor know your interest in green construction materials and practices is important. Here are some areas to research and explore:

- Recycled-content materials like cellulose insulation, thermoply floor tile, and recycled plastic lumber
- High-performance windows, solar options, low maintenance landscaping, water conservation
- Design options and techniques to harness sun's heat, prevent radon and mold, and minimize insect penetration
- Less toxic materials that can be as enjoyable and more healthy for occupants and the environment
- Waste management during construction
- Purchasing locally to ensure that the product or application is appropriate in our area.

For more information contact CET at [www.cetonline.org](http://www.cetonline.org) or 1-800-238-1221.

— June Rochedieu



## Nuciforo Supports Proposed Housatonic Heritage Area

In formal comments to the National Park Service, State Sen. Andrea F. Nuciforo, Jr., has offered his support the proposed Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area, which extends 60 miles from Hancock, Mass. to Kent, Conn., and comprises 964 square miles.

If approved by Congress, the Housatonic Heritage Area would be eligible for federal funds that would be used by local cultural, historical, and natural resource organizations for education, interpretation, historic preservation, planning, recreational trail development, and open-space conservation. Heritage Areas do not have land-use regulatory powers and designation would not entail federal acquisition of land.

"The Housatonic Valley is truly a unique region of the country. It is host to an array of cultural and historical treasures that continue to play an important role in the American experience. Likewise, the area we call home is surrounded by a natural landscape that lends itself to extensive opportunities for recreation and conservation," Nuciforo wrote in support of the initiative to James O'Connell, National Park Service community planner. "National Heritage designation will further support the region's identity by highlighting its cultural, historical and geographical significance."

Nuciforo, who represents all of the communities in Massachusetts that are included in the designated area, said he was impressed with the work that local volunteers had contributed to a recently completed draft report on the project by the National Park Service. Several themes of the region's national significance have been identified in the report, including:

- Cultural Resort: Region was home to important literary, artistic, musical and architectural achievements and hosts many renowned cultural attractions.
- Shaping a Scenic Landscape: Area is distinguished for its scenic beauty, recreational opportunities and long history of innovative nature conservation following the era of industrialization and deforestation.
- Cradle of Industry: Region was a pioneer in the iron, paper, and electrical generation industries.
- Revolutionary War and the Development of Democracy: Region had impact on Revolutionary War, Shay's Rebellion, and early civil rights.

According to the National Park Service, a National Heritage Area "is a place designated by Congress where natural, cultural, historic, and scenic resources combine to form a cohesive, nationally distinctive landscape arising from patterns of human activity shaped by geography. These patterns make National Heritage Areas representative of the national experience through the physical features that remain and the traditions that have evolved in them."

Massachusetts towns included in the proposed Heritage Area are: Alford, Becket, Dalton, Egremont, Great Barrington, Hancock, Hinsdale, Lanesboro, Lee, Lenox, Monterey, Mount Washington, New Marlborough, Pittsfield, Richmond, Sheffield, Stockbridge, Tyringham, Washington, and West Stockbridge.

A copy of the feasibility study is online at [www.nps.gov/boso/upper\\_housatonic/](http://www.nps.gov/boso/upper_housatonic/). The deadline for public comments, which will be considered in the final version of the congressional report, is Friday, Jan. 31. Comments may be sent to James O'Connell, National Park Service, 15 State St., Boston, MA 02109, or by phone at 617-223-5222.

DESIGN AND PLANNING

Residential Design  
Kitchen/Bath Design

Christopher Blair

Construction Management  
Project Representation

413.528.4960 32 Mahaiwe Street, Great Barrington, MA



## Buy Local!

### Greenhaven, Coles Brook, and Markristo Farms

"Always ask 'What's local?'" urges Amy Cotler, Executive Director of Berkshire Grown, the organization that supports local food and farming. Under Cotler's enthusiastic direction, BG has mounted a wildly successful "buy local" campaign, encouraging residents, chefs, weekenders, tourists, and anyone else who wanders into the Berkshires to buy from local producers. With an active web site, an annual farm map, and helpful newsletters, BG makes it easy to find out how to buy local food at farmers' markets and farmstands, at specialty markets and supermarkets, and at a growing number of local restaurants.

There are close to 400 farms in Berkshire County, producing over \$20 million of food each year. Almost 100 farms sell directly to the consumer, and all the farmers have interesting stories to tell about themselves, how they came to farming, and what they enjoy about their agricultural lives. Here's a quick look at three local farms, each different from one another yet all representative of the diversity of Berkshire County agriculture.

Sally and Steve Pullen opened Greenhaven Farm on Main Road in Monterey, in 2002, shortly after moving from Burlington, Vermont, where they had been active for several decades in Burlington's flourishing community garden and member-supported farm scene. Last year they farmed one-eighth of an

acre in their back yard, selling organically grown produce from their garage seven days a week in season. This year they are enlarging their backyard garden, and are adding an acre of winter squash, taking over a business begun by neighbor Richard Tryon of Lowland Farm.

"This past year we couldn't keep up with demand," laments Sally, but adds, "this year we'll be growing many more tomatoes, beans, beets, snap peas, and wider varieties of lettuces and flowers. Our goal is to have enough of every-thing."

"Please don't forget the pies! They helped keep us afloat last year," she notes. Steve, the pie maker, bakes eight to ten fruit pies every week ("each weighs five pounds!"), selling them at \$15 apiece.

If you're looking for Greenhaven, you can't miss it just across the side street from the Monterey Fire House. It's the house with the sign in front advertising "Vegetables, Pies and Worms." "Don't worry," assures Sally, "the worms will be back."

Susan Minnich of Coles Brook Farm in Washington grows a wide variety of flowers on one-half acre of her fifty-plus-acre property. "It's a small acreage, but intensely grown, with really wide rows



Steve Pullen

*Sally Pullen at the Greenhaven Farmstand*

and really narrow paths," says Susan. Calla lilies, sunflowers, sandersonia, lisianthus, and Bells of Ireland are among the hundred or so varieties she grows, cutting perhaps 2200 stems a week at the height of the season.

To maximize her small growing space, Minnich plants consecutive crops throughout the season. She also rotates crops: "From one year to the next, I won't plant, say, dahlias in the same place. Plants use different amounts of nutrients from the soil and use up different things in the soil and attract different types of pests and diseases. Moving crops around reduces a lot of problems."

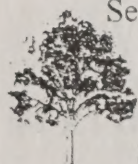
Minnich's commercial season begins slowly in May, builds gradually through June, and continues briskly until the first major frost. About 60 percent of her business is done at the Great Barrington Farmers' Market, a self-managed market whose steering committee she serves on. The remainder of her product is sold wholesale to florists, with some home delivery.

Minnich has been growing flowers professionally since 1990. She also works part-time as the Assistant Director of Berkshire Grown. Her husband, Roy Bryan, teaches English and Journalism/Communications at Springfield College. They are thus typical of farm families all

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over the country, for more than half have one household member whose primary work is outside the farm.

Christa and Martin Stosiek, owners of Markristo Farm on Route 23 in Hillsdale, have fifteen acres in production each year, with another fifteen acres that lie fallow or "resting." Their primary crops are greens. "Last year we sold 20,000 pounds," Martin says proudly. "Greens are a good specialty because they're best when they're fresh, and we don't have to compete with non-regional farmers."

The Stosieks started their farm in 1988 on land belonging to Martin's family. "We started out thinking we'd have a pick-your-own berry farm," says Christa, "with vegetables as a sideline. But the berries didn't work, partly because berries like acidic soil and we have limey land." From berries they moved to greens, selling them to New York City chefs through a wholesaler. "That was not a happy experience," says Christa. "We had no contact with the chefs, and the lack of contact hurt both ways—as growers we couldn't learn from the chef what he wanted, and the chef didn't have us to educate him."

When organic California products started flooding northeastern markets, the Stosieks turned adversity into opportunity by deciding to sell locally, doing away with their focus on New York City. "We asked ourselves, 'What can we produce that will fetch a good price?'" explains Martin. "What doesn't ship well turns out to be the right answer for us." Thus, they grow "boutique vegetables"

that need to be fresh, rather than things like broccoli and cabbage that ship well.

The fresh nature of all three growers' product is a major reason for the success of "buy local" campaigns. As Marion Simon, a Monterey resident and fan of roadside stands, says, "When I travel long distances, I feel weary and tired—and, I suspect, so do the vegetables. That's why I prefer to buy them nearby."

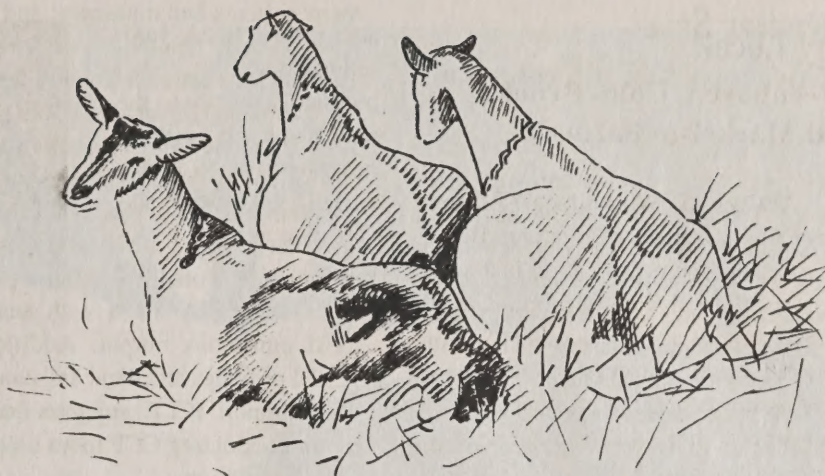
Although the bulk of their business is wholesale, Christa has a large and successful produce and flower stand at the Great Barrington Farmers' Market, where she, like Susan Minnich, is on the steering committee. "Christa and I are great friends ... and great competitors," says Minnich.

In the winter, Martin works as a potter in his family's longtime business, Berkshire Pottery. "I like pottery because I can control it," says Martin,

"unlike farming, which I can't." Martin's part-time winter work is also typical of American farm families, for there are only a very few family-owned farms that don't have some "off-stream" income. Christa, mother of two young daughters, uses the winter "to clean up the house, read seed catalogues, and catch my breath."

The "breath-catching" season is almost over, and soon the Pullens, the Stosieks, Susan Minnich and all the other local growers will be planting their 2003 crops. Lucky us!

—Laurily Epstein



*Expectantly awaiting at Rawson Brook Farm*

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## Senator Says Cities for Climate Protection

Many cities and towns in the commonwealth and across the nation have adopted the Cities for Climate Protection (CCP) initiative. CCP is an effective way for local governments to reduce greenhouse gases and to develop responsible energy management strategies that mitigate global climate change.

As many readers may know, there is growing consensus among the scientific community, and within the Bush administration, that increases in greenhouse gases are contributing to accelerated climate change. If these trends continue, the impacts to cities and towns could be significant and include such issues as smog, water supply decreases, and extreme weather-related problems.

Large cities, including Boston, Chicago, and Salt Lake City, and smaller towns, such as Amherst, Lenox, and Williamstown, have supported resolutions relative to the CCP initiative. The resolutions essentially state that the community supports the effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and are a means to provide an international voice for local governments. Once a local government approves the CCP resolution, it will work to complete the following performance milestones: conduct an energy and emissions inventory and forecast; establish an emissions target; develop and obtain approval for a local action plan; imple-

ment policies and measures; and monitor and verify results.

The International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI), which established the CCP program in 1993 at the United Nations, acts as a partner to communities that adopt the CCP resolution. Participating cities and towns are encouraged to obtain a software package that will greatly assist with analyzing local emissions output. Additionally, ICLEI provides technical assistance and other support. ICLEI suggests that communities adopting CCP focus on the following emissions:

- Carbon dioxide, emitted by energy consumption of fossil fuels by municipal buildings and facilities, households, institutional and commercial buildings, auto transportation, industrial and manufacturing process;
- Methane, a greenhouse gas emitted in urban areas by local waste disposal, especially landfills and waste water treatment facilities;
- Conventional air pollutants such as ni-

trogen oxides, carbon monoxide, and non-methane volatile organic compounds, compounds that are precursors of ground-level ozone and smog, as well as by-products of fossil fuel combustion.

The opportunities for cities and towns to reduce greenhouse gases are virtually limitless, from using solar-powered streetlights to increasing recycling programs. A number of communities have decided to change procurement policies to require the purchase of the most fuel-efficient vehicle

that will suit the intended municipal purpose. Others have mandated that local governments purchase only Energy Star or other energy-efficient electronics and appliances. These efforts not only reduce emissions and therefore impacts to our health and the environment, but also save taxpayer money and add to the quality of life.

It is important to note that the CCP is intended to be flexible and that communities will vary in how they approach this initiative. Some will establish detailed local action plans that take a comprehensive look at municipal energy use, while others will draw on a more limited approach that still identifies options to limit city or town emissions. Regardless of scope, cities and towns that participate are taking a proactive role in enhancing our environment.

I hope this information is helpful. As always, please feel free to contact me in my district office (413-442-6810) with any questions you may have.

— State Sen. Andrea F. Nuciforo, Jr.



## Peter Murkett

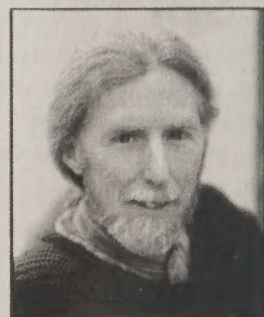
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## Remembering Walter R. Volckhausen

Walter (Bob) Volckhausen, 91 years old, died Sunday, January 26, 2003, at his home in Hampton, Virginia.

He was a graduate of Columbia University and received his M.A. in mathematics from the University of Maryland in 1937. He taught at Paterson Collegiate Institute in Fairlawn, New Jersey, and then at the University of Maryland from 1935 to 1941. From 1941 to 1946 he was business manager for Group Health Association, a co-operative medical plan in Hampton. From 1959 to 1979 he taught mathematics at Hampton Institute, where he worked with advanced placement programs in nine high schools from Norfolk to Richmond, and where he received the Lindback Foundation award for distinguished teaching.

He was a fervent supporter of racial integration, social justice, and world peace from World War II, when he applied for conscientious objector status, until, more recently, the Persian Gulf War. Throughout his career he was an active volunteer

in the cooperative movement and in the peace movement. In Greenbelt, Maryland he edited the weekly *Greenbelt Co-operator*. After his retirement, he edited the *Peace Advocate*, monthly newsletter of the Peninsula Peace Education Center in Hampton, from 1984 until 2001. He also served the Peace Education Center as president, vice-president, and treasurer. He enjoyed music, square dancing, sailing, and hiking. Most summers were spent near Lake Garfield in Monterey. He worked with others to develop a cooperative camp in the Blue Ridge Mountains, where, in addition to hiking, swimming, and picnicking, he wielded a hammer,

saw, or whatever tools were needed to repair the cabins.

He is survived by his wife, Jane Braucher Volckhausen, and his children: Janet Rose Volckhausen of Prescott, Arizona; Paul Volckhausen and his wife, Karen, of Orland, Maine; Tom Volckhausen and his wife, Francoise, of Boulder, Colorado; Jim Volckhausen and his wife, Christiann, of Ithaca, New York. Grandchildren are Betsy Van Pelt Carens, Molly Van Pelt, Peter Van Pelt, Taran Volckhausen, Tasia Poinsett, Surat Lozowick, and Galen Volckhausen. There are three great grandchildren: Madeline, Benjamin, and Alexander.

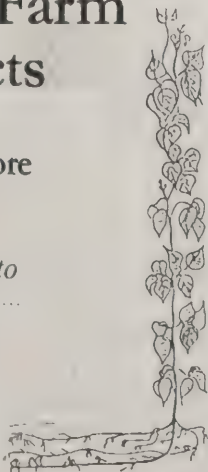


Glynis Oliver

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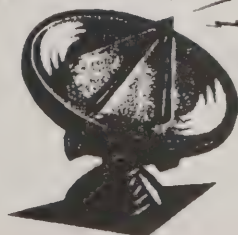
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## Cybele

*Doubt is her dragging anchor  
as she crosses and recrosses  
a celestial equator*

*dividing at the gut  
in her, the saint, the slut*

*as she and all her kin  
were taught and so wont  
they wanted and were taut*

*but the sun has other plans*

*having tasted a solstice of morals  
and detected a taint  
over the wheelstone  
he spins and sobs  
over her heels  
stabbing into her dark complaint*

*the slut counts  
in beads of sweat and purity  
so many has she ringed  
in jasper rose and flesh, in part and hole  
her band and bond  
hot kisses hooped by an interior moon  
and runged on the committed probe  
in feathered trembling on his festive rod*

*the saint kisses with reasons  
is thus disqualified  
and sags down her meridians  
of pulsing cold  
to be consumed  
by taxes, winter, and a righteous god*

*the slut, the slot, open and shot  
kisses for pleasures  
nests and sweet nectarines  
to be subsumed  
she smiles like a holy leopard  
knowing he has never been circled by such sinuous spring  
by constant slivered silvers and inconstant gold  
been this confused  
old before young  
forgiven while hung*

*Cybele sings in braids of blooded rhythms  
of divided incandescent tides  
mourns in cold bread  
always in that silence following  
a trap sprung.*

— A. O. Howell

---

## Before dawn:1998

*A silent cloud  
Floats, whited by the  
moon,  
between two pines  
two stars of the morning  
are dancing  
I see them over  
the great curve of  
your naked shoulder  
as we lie high  
in our connubial bed*

*you, the husbandman, the gardener  
are the one who helps all things here  
to bloom —  
even as you sleep  
you are causing me  
to unfold  
petal by petal  
in this cool absolute stillness.*

— A. O. Howell



## Getting There

*Take the long road if you like*

*Court spring*

*Dance with summer*

*Drape yourself in autumn*

*And don't forget to sleep with winter*

*Spend time along the side of the road*

*Explore the primitive pathways*

*Get terribly lost at least once*

*Let the moon and the crashing waves guide you*

*When you become weary*

*Converse indignantly with three large birds*

*Don't eat the mushrooms*

*And, if you must pray, be discreet*

*(Someone could be listening)*

*Rest easy on the highest knolls*

*Laugh out loud during thunderstorms*

*Sob relentlessly only in the dead of night*

*And make sure you pull yourself together by sunrise*

*When your heart is full*

*Bathe in the morning dew*

*Leave a lock of your hair in the meadow*

*A footprint in the hemlock grove*

*a wink and a smile on the afternoon breeze*

*Upon arriving home*

*Bring me tales of your travels*

*Anemones and pears*

*We'll sit in the summer dusk*

*And become one again*

— Claudia Weldon

## Confessions of a Serial Pond Swimmer

*one day I went swimming in the pond*

*out to the middle*

*where it's very deep*

*then*

*lying on my back*

*eyes closed*

*sun all over me*

*i took away the water*

— Claudia Weldon

## Patriot Sex 2003

*Such virility*

*in our well pressed gang.*

*ties as neat*

*as the nightly news,*

*obsessed with their Iraqtions*

*our pride compells us*

*to stroke them*

*(with a little petroleum*

*if necessary)*

*'til they sigh with satisfaction*

— Boney Oscar  
R. Zukowski



## Direct Action in the Root Cellar

In these dark days of misinformation and propaganda it is always a relief when we have an honest encounter with someone who is up-front, of whom one can say with certainty: there is no hidden agenda here. We treasure the exchange which is direct, nonverbal, and face-to-face, or in this case, tooth-to-finger.

The "someone" of whom I speak is small and furry, wild and innocent. She lives out in the cold winter woods around my house, making tunnels under the snow where the foxes can only smell her. She is looking for something to eat, all the time, and one good place to look is in our root cellar.

Unfortunately for her, she can usually only look at the food in there. Years ago we figured out that since we can't cage the wild mice in our root cellar we have to cage the root crops instead. So we built boxes of hardware cloth, with wooden frames and hinged lids. Every fall we fill them up with potatoes, carrots, Jerusalem artichokes, and beets. When we want roots for the kitchen, we go down in the root cellar, open up one of the cages, and take what we need. Most of the time we remember to close the cage lid again before climbing out of the large hole in the ground which is our root cellar.

We can always tell that there are frustrated little four-foots visiting the

cages. They nibble a little through the 1/4-inch mesh of the hardware cloth but they don't get any real meals. As I greedily fill my basket with huge carrots and beets I feel sorry for the little mice. My teeth ache and shiver at the thought of weaseling a few shreds of carrot through the wire. Ah, well. Can't feed the whole world, can we.

Recently we got so much snow piled up around here that certain places remained snowed in for many days. We did not shovel our way to the root cellar until we had recovered a bit from the more pressing snow removal we'd been experiencing. Finally a craving for carrots drove us to fight our way into the dark, damp world of carrots and spiders.

When we chipped the ice from around the door, got a sturdier shovel and popped it open, we saw right away that whoever had been there last (us) had omitted to close the lid on the carrots. This happens sometimes; there certainly are worse things.

A quick evaluation said there hadn't been much real loss of roots. In fact, it looked as if the chisel-toothed visitor we'd had was more interested in destruction of infrastructure than any kind of direct competition for basic foodstuffs. There were some nibbled carrots, certainly, but there were absolute heaps of wood chewings all around the interior of

the frame of this cage. Inspections further revealed no clear material breach, that is, no hole right through to the other side. My searching took on new frisson of danger. There was every reason to think the enemy was quite close at hand.

A little more digging in the carrots and suddenly she was as close at hand as it is possible to be. In fact, she was affixed to my hand by her famous incisors. I have no doubt that she was fighting for her life, that she was not bluffing, that she would do all that she could to send the giant packing. But I could not put all the blame for this violent encounter on her. The truth is, I knew what I was risking as soon as I realized there had been no escape hole completed. I could have clambered out of the hole, gone to the house for a pair of gloves, or even for a few cats for backup. It was my choice to pursue her on her own terms, my monstrous naked finger and her tiny teeth. I knew what those teeth could do.

So I bore my responsibility. I lifted her carefully out, even though my combined nervous system and instinct for self-preservation were shouting: Yow! Get rid of it! Smack it! In fact, it was a little tricky getting her to let go. Finally her release mechanism was activated and I was free. So was she. She never looked back, but flicked over the edge of the cage, the shelf, and into the darkness of her wild world.

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I closed the lid, climbed out into the daylight, and surveyed the damage: much throbbing, a bit less blood than you might think, and the tiniest of wounds in my left index finger. I gave it a good squeeze, washing things out, and went into the house to stash the carrots.



For days afterwards I have to say I treasured my mouse wound. This may sound deranged, and in fact I think I am deranged lately. Like a lot of people I am peppered with the invisible, bloodless wounds that I get from the daily news. I can't seem to fend them off and I can't keep track of them properly.

But this little mouse bite is the kind of appropriate injury I can handle. She bit me. I knew she would and she had every reason to do it, plus it is healing just as you would expect it to. In another day or so I won't be able to feel it any more, even when I squeeze it, and my direct action experience involving carrots and a mouse will be just a memory. I look forward to the day when we can say the same about the injuries of the last year and a half.

— Bonner J. McAllester

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## March Events in the Highlands

The Highland Communities Initiative is sponsoring the following March events:

### Rural Zoning Solutions Program

March 5, 7:30-9:30 p.m.

(rescheduled from February 18)

Land-use patterns in small rural towns are clearly very different from urban and suburban areas, yet rural towns nearly always use the same zoning framework. Nationally recognized land-use attorney and community development planner Joel Russell will speak on the tools and techniques available to small towns to preserve their rural character. The program is free and open to all. Please call 413-587-0716, extension 14, for the location.

### Signs of Spring: A Slide Show and Discussion about Vernal Pools

March 24, 7:30-8:30 p.m.

Conway Town Hall

This educational slide show with Trustees of Reservations ecologist, Jose Garcia, will describe what vernal pools are, how to identify them, what creatures depend on them, and their importance in the local ecological network. This presentation is free and open to all.

## Sandisfield Historical Society Spring Dance

The Sandisfield Historical Society will hold a dance, "The Spring Fling," to benefit the Meeting House Extension on April 5, 2003, from 8 p.m.-midnight at Fire House #2. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$5 for children, and includes Dan Daniel's Country Western Band, a light buffet, and refreshments. Reservations appreciated. Call Norton Fletcher for information at 413-258-4520.

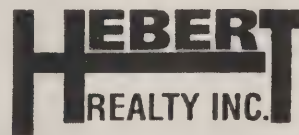
### Everything A Municipal Official Needs to Know About Chapter 61

March 25, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Stanton Hall, Huntington

This workshop will be led by a community consultant and a town assessor and will explain the purposes and administration of the limited taxation program, Chapter 61, as well as the process and responsibilities associated with towns' rights of first refusal. The program is free and open to all and will include a discussion of specific questions and concerns.

For more information, visit our website, [www.highlandcommunities.org](http://www.highlandcommunities.org), or call Wendy Sweetser at 413-587-0716, extension 14.



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## A Daily Walk From Stress to Peace of Mind

It was not possible to take my daily walk on Presidents' Day, February 17, because it snowed from dawn to dusk, keeping me busy clearing paths and parking lot. For someone my age, a walk in the country is supposed to prolong one's life, but shoveling snow at temperatures near zero can be instantly fatal. But I am still here to tell you of a walk almost forty years ago when I met Harry S. Truman, also out for his daily constitutional, thirteen years after he had completed (and survived very well) his term as our thirty-third president.

I have been a willing and avid walker since a boy, but the ritual took on a compulsory turn of events as a young man, when my father's heart specialist, Dr. Paul Dudley White, told my father to advise me that his heart problems might not be hereditary if I remembered to walk regularly. My father had a heart attack in England during World War II, caused by stress and overwork while

serving as a colonel with Eighth Army Air Force Intelligence in 1944. As an experienced low-level-bombing expert he had been assigned to Dwight Eisenhower's staff a few months before D Day and the Allied invasion of the German-occupied European mainland. Dr. White, an eminent Boston cardiologist, also later became Eisenhower's doctor after his heart attack, and became famous for prescribing regular exercise for his patients.

President Truman was no exception to this advisory, and when in office was constantly seen and photographed taking a regular walk down Pennsylvania Avenue and around the White House block, closely accompanied by Secret Service agents followed by members of the press corp. It might seem unlikely that thirteen years after the end of his term his daily walk and my own should cross paths, but going back there to that time and place might be an interesting journey now into similarly difficult times.

Truman's daughter, Margaret, was married to Clifton Daniel, and in the mid-sixties they rented a summer house in Tuxedo Park, New York, about forty miles north of New York City where Daniel was an editor of the *New York Times*. Their rental was near ours, and Margaret's father would come to visit. I

walked daily to the train station and back, a mile or more along Pine Hill Road, rarely meeting anyone. Then one day on the way home, tired from being in the city, briefcase in hand, I looked up and there he was coming down the other way with the minister of my church, Reverend Cooper, who had volunteered to walk with him every day. They saw me coming, and Truman seemed concerned at meeting anyone on this remote road, so I politely crossed over to the other side to honor his right to privacy. In passing I tipped my hat (we all wore hats in those days) and he tipped his hat back to me, asking the minister if he knew who I was.

Reverend Cooper said I was a member of his vestry, and then called out to me, "George, don't you recognize my companion?" I replied that he looked amazingly like a former president of the United States. Truman thought that was funny and retorted he was glad he still bore some resemblance to his former self. We all stood there having a good laugh, so the minister called me over to shake hands "with the man who shook the hand of Franklin Roosevelt, Winston Churchill, and Joseph Stalin!" Truman objected right away stating he regretted his association with Stalin, but grasped my hand anyhow. I said I was glad to meet him because when I graduated from

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college, even as he had just finished his last term, my professors were saying he would go down as one of the great presidents of all time. Truman winced slightly at such an obvious compliment and challenged me to substantiate why they were saying that.

I had told him the truth, and started with The Marshall Plan. Reverend Cooper agreed with this stating that FDR had saved the U.S. economy with the Marshall Plan. Truman seemed satisfied with that but said he never considered himself in a class with either one of the two Roosevelts. Then I told him that as a war president the U.S. had dropped the first atom bombs, and the minister paled at my comment. Nevertheless, Truman said he was following the recommendation of his military advisors to save perhaps a half million lives of servicemen

who could be killed trying to invade the islands of Japan. Reverend Cooper changed the subject by listing establishment of NATO and the state of Israel as monumental accomplishments on his watch, not to mention The Truman Doctrine, a lasting tribute to his administration. Truman replied that each one continued to be of great interest and concern, but he was always glad he had supported them.

Then I recalled visiting the Truman Library on a business trip, and he asked me if I had seen the sign on his desk "The Buck Stops Here." My affirmative answer pleased him immensely. He asked me about my walking and we shared with Reverend Cooper our exhilaration in healthy exercise. Cooper told me that Truman kept in great shape for a man eighty-one years old, (he was

to live for another seven years, and his death was listed as from natural causes). Truman said that every day he looked forward to stretching his legs, and each day gave thanks that he was no longer president.

So put on your walking shoes, whether they be sneakers, moccasins, snowshoes, cross-country skis, or trout-fishing waders, fill your lungs with fresh air, send oxygen coursing through the brain, and go forth to witness the seasons in transition. Perhaps our paths will cross and we can share our inspiration from the experience, leaving stress far behind, and reaching out to achieve peace of mind, knowing that others have done the same.

— George Emmons



## Notes from Greenhaven Farm One potato, two potato . . .

One of the challenges we face as farmers is deciding what price to charge for our vegetables. Sally's father, Ray Ward, had the same problem in 1947 as he relates in the following letter to his father.

. . . I must tell you about my potatoes. I had lots of fun over it. Jack Kimberly left for California with his family a few weeks ago. He had bought a half-ton of potatoes last fall, hoping to make enough on them to get his own for nothing. The day he left he called me up to sell me the potatoes. I had no idea how much they were worth, but he said he had been getting \$2.00 a cwt., but if I would take the 4 cwt. he had left, I could have them for \$1.50 each. He said they were in good condition, but that they were Irish Cobblers, and not quite as mealy as some potatoes are. (Soggy, I call them!) So I called up Lester Miner at the store and asked what potatoes were worth. "We're

paying \$2.80 a hundred," he said. "Would you take 300 lbs. of Cobblers at \$1.50 if I can't handle them?" I asked. "Why yes, I'll take them if you want," he said. So I told Jack to bring the potatoes over, and when he did, I gave him my last \$6 that I had been saving to pay the telephone bill with.

Well the potatoes were in excellent condition. We opened one bag and started using them. The next day I had to go over to Housatonic to see the Rev. Watson Wordsworth, so I took 3 bags of the potatoes with me, thinking if I can get one bag out of it for only \$1.50, that's wonderful. But as I drove along I got to thinking about what potatoes were worth and how other people do business. I am likely to figure how I can sell something without taking a loss, but I thought that businessmen don't do that; they figure how they can sell at a profit. So, I thought, I'm not fixed to hold these potatoes, and I need the money and can't spend much time selling them, so if I get enough out of three bags to pay for my bag, that's a good profit. I'll ask \$2.00 a bag and see how I come out.

Before I took my leave of Watson Wordsworth, I mentioned the potatoes. "Wait a minute," he said, "I think we are out of potatoes, I'll ask my wife." Sure enough, he was out and he has a large family to feed, so he bought a bag. "They're Cobblers, you know, not as mealy as some, but the market is \$2.80 wholesale." So I carried a bag into his

cellar for him and went off with my \$2.00. That was easy and I felt pretty good.

I'll just stop into the first store I come to and see if I can sell the rest, I decided.

In the village of Housatonic I backed my Suburban to the curb in front of the village market in a very businesslike fashion and walked in feeling very self-conscious. "Wanna buy some potatoes at \$2.00?" I asked an old duffer who was waiting on a customer. "They're good potatoes, and that's 80 cents under the market." He straightened up a minute and said, "See that guy coming out of the cooler? Ask him."

So I asked him. He eyed me sharply. "What's the matter with them?" he asked. "Nothing, they're Cobblers, you know, likely to be a little soggy, but they are in very good condition, no sprouts or anything, good and firm."

"How much did you say?" he asked.

"\$2.00." I answered.

"The market is \$2.80. What's the matter, they frozen?" he asked.

"Nope, they're all right."

"It looks suspicious to me," he said.

"What are you selling them so cheap for, anyway?"

"Well I got them cheap, and I want to move them fast. I'll show you a sample if you want."

"Who are you anyway?"

"I'm Ray Ward."

"Never heard of you. Where are you from?"

### CHARLES J. FERRIS Attorney at Law



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"Monterey."

"That's bad. What are you doing way over here? Did you raise these potatoes yourself and why are they so cheap? It doesn't sound right to me. I'll bet they're frozen anyway."

"Now listen," I said, "I didn't raise these potatoes. I'm not a potato man. I'm a religious and social worker. A friend of mine sold them to me cheap. I'm keeping a bag for myself and all I want out of it is enough to pay for my own bag. I used some myself and they were all right, and I believe the rest are all right; I'll stand back of them and make good if they

Monterey. And if it will make you feel any better, I'll charge you \$2.50 for them." I stopped to take a breath.

"Oh, I feel all right," he said with a grin. "I'll have to come over to see you some day and see how the fish are biting in Lake Garfield. I don't really need potatoes, but I'll look at them."

He went out to the car with me. I showed him some potatoes in a half-bushel basket. They did look good. "This is a fair sample," I told him. "These are just some that fell out onto the floor from the bag I opened for myself, and this is just the way they come. They aren't graded

man; if I were, I'd be selling these at \$2.80 and no questions asked instead of wearing myself out trying to get \$2.00 for them!"

"Okay," he said, "I'll take them, both bags. Bring them in."

So I did, and collected my \$4.00. So I had my \$6.00 back to pay my telephone bill, and I had a bag of potatoes at home for nothing, and had sold the rest without going a step out of my way, but as I drove along home did I feel good? No, I felt terrible.

"You're a terrible businessman," I said to myself. "All you think of is getting enough to get by on each deal, and you leave no margin for losses on other deals. You never think of what things are worth to you, or what they'd be worth to the other fellow if he were selling them. You only think what you'd like to pay for them, and sell them for that. You've got to figure what they will bring from people who need and want them, not what you'd like to get them for yourself. And another thing, if you charge less than people expect to pay, they get suspicious and you can't sell them. You thought you'd move those potatoes fast by making them cheap, and you just made a fool of yourself with an experienced buyer, and had hard work to sell them to him. In fact the only way you succeeded was to come down from the business level to the friendly level. If you'd asked him \$2.60 or \$2.80, market price, he'd probably have bought them right off, no questions asked, and brother, you could use that extra money to buy groceries with!"

Well anyway, it was lots of fun, and from everything I do I learn a lesson. Must tell you about my lesson with my chain saw, but it is time to shut up the office and go home.

Everyone who remembers Ray Ward knows he didn't make this story up. He loved humor and he loved people. He was a teacher in the best tradition, living his life as an example of his beliefs, instead of just preaching them.

PS: We will charge more than 2 cents per pound for potatoes next summer. Okay, Dad?

— Sally and Steve Pullen



aren't. I'm selectman and town clerk in Monterey and was minister of the church during the war, and I came over to see Rev. Wordsworth on business and brought the potatoes along. I sold him a bag, and if you want the other 200 lbs you can have them for \$2.00, and if you don't, I'll take them over to the Langdon Store in

for size; they're field run, but they are good."

He inspected them carefully. "You say they are Cobblers? What makes them that pinkish color?" he asked.

"Listen," I said, "the fellow who sold them to me said they were Cobblers, and that's all I know about it. I'm not a potato

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## Tea Room Tales

### Dancing and Flirting with the Boys: The Sally (Ward) Pullen Story

In the late 40s through mid 50s Monterey was a lot smaller. Everyone knew everyone and, in fact, everyone knew a whole lot about everyone! Kids had a free run of the place and there was lots of acceptance even for the downright "eccentric" here in Monterey. People looked after each other. If someone had need, folks like Ray Ward, minister of the Monterey Congregational Church would busy themselves helping. The Cold War was still very remote and without TV the Ward girls—Leslie, Sally, and Louise—felt life was only safe and good. "We'll all be just fine and we'll all marry perfectly wonderful husbands..." That simply seemed like the way life was going to be.

Sometimes though, the local kids would tease and "how excruciating" that was! The Ward girls longed to be considered "just ordinary kids," not minister's daughters.

Louise and Sally, closest in age, worked hard to prove to everyone that "they weren't goody-goodies!" On their horses Missy (for Miss Hollyhock) and Maybe they roamed bareback throughout Monterey, up and down dirt roads, to the lake and home again to the parsonage at 418 Main Road.

To the nine-ten-eleven-twelve-year-olds, Tryon's Tea Room, sitting across the street from the parsonage and down in town hollow, was a "magical place" to go. Ice-cream cones were an occasional

treat, costing five cents. Sally could stand in front of the marble soda fountain and study the movements being performed behind it, leading to a hand-dipped masterpiece that was so delicious.

When the room was not crowded it had a "peaceful feeling" with sun streaming through the large windows, catching the glint of the oily dark wooden flooring.

Dear Della Tryon, who "seemed like such a very old lady" way back then, was always kind to the children. She wore a full apron as she made every cake, pie, hamburger or grilled cheese sandwich herself.

By the mid-50s, a jukebox toward the rear of the Tea Room, on the right, suddenly began playing Elvis Presley. This music was, for Sally, "intense, intoxicating," and very different from the big band sounds folks were so accustomed to hearing.

Having heard about Elvis's "hip swiveling" (but without TV never having seen Elvis personally) Sally recalls everyone their age being swept up in rock and roll and all the dancing that went with bobby socks, full skirts, and 100-yard crinolines.

One of the boys had somehow found a way to play lots of songs on just one quarter, by sliding a matchbook under a leg of the machine, and for some unknown reason the Tryons didn't appear to mind...

Sally (then fourteen) and Louise (thirteen) discovered dancing and flirting with the boys *simultaneously* at the Tryon's



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Tea Room. And in summer there were so many "cute boys" to choose from! Some came from the Conservation Camp, some from the summer cottages; and there was always Walter and Billy, schoolmates and longtime friends.

Because the Tea Room got very warm with all that dancing and flirting the kids would eventually spill out onto the Tea Room lawn and the cool stonewall of the church next door. Some evenings the older camp counselors would arrive at the Tea Room, easy to watch and admire and learn from.

All the while there would be lots of laughing and shoving, teasing and running away ... "These were wonderful times and the memories still linger for those of us lucky enough to have grown up in Monterey."

— Eileen Lawlor

*Photo courtesy of June and Ray Tryon. If you have a Tea Room tale and would be willing to be interviewed as part of this ongoing oral history project, please call Eileen at 528-7916.*

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## The View from London

I have been lucky enough to spend the last two summers in Monterey, but our home is in London, where I live with my British husband and our two children.

After almost seven years in the same house, most of my immediate neighbors will now give me a small nod of acknowledgment. Keeping one's distance and respecting others' privacy are the makings of a good neighbor in England. However after September 11th something very odd happened. These same neighbors started dropping notes of condolence and encouragement through my door, and one elderly lady who hadn't spoken to me before, and indeed has not since, was at my doorstep with flowers and kind words. On September the 12th, still in shock but like mothers elsewhere, I went to the market. While waiting in line someone asked me a casual question to which I responded. A British customer in front of me, I made him to be about seventy years old, turned and asked me if I was an American. When I responded that I was this is what he said to me:

"I am so sorry for what's happened to you, to all of you. I was in North Africa, we understand and we will stand by you."

And then in a most un-British display he hugged me. Gently, kindly and ... in public. I do not know when I have been more moved. In that instant I understood

more about my Anglo neighbors than years of proximity had taught me.

Europe is a strange place right now. Today is the beginning of winter half term, a weeklong break for many British school children. Families fly off for their long-arranged holidays, a common thing, like flying to Boston from New York. Except that today military tanks are rolling into Heathrow Airport. London is on high terror alert and in Europe anti-Americanism is rife. And in the face of this the British are stoic. They go about their business, they make incredibly snide jokes, their lips are stiff and they carry on. Once upon a time I would have thought this behavior strange; detached and cold. But now I know it for what it is: courage in the face of adversity, dignity when hysteria could reign, loyalty, honor, and an unwavering sense of who they are and what they believe that sustains them.

The Second World War is still recent history here, I suppose because of the proximity of the combatants and their long history of conflict. And in a certain way these people can draw some strengths and comforts from the lessons that for them are somehow closer. I make no comment on the right or wrong of the conflict we now face. What I offer are some of the lessons I have learned in this place so far from my home.

— Christa Lindsay

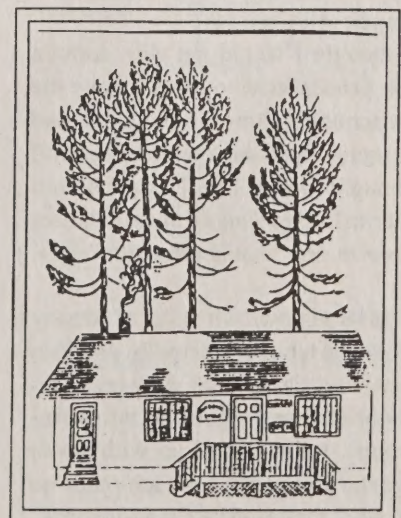
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## **Thanks to Highway Dept.**

To the Editor:

I think I express the view of many folk in our village when I express my heartfelt gratitude and admiration to our highway department for the outstanding job they have done 24/7 these past few weeks in keeping our roads open and safe. Thanks, guys!

— Alice O. Howell, Monterey



## **New York City Peace Rally**

To the Editor:

Here is my report from the February 15th NYC peace rally. I am getting to be something of a veteran now, having been to Boston once and Washington twice since late October. I thought I knew what to expect and this is what made me decide to go to NYC, though the weather was colder than January in Washington, and I was double-booked that weekend, which meant I had to travel from Saratoga Springs and get back the same night to play music with my band.

I thought I would get with about a million peaceniks who would make me feel better about things in the USA, and this is pretty much what happened. But I also thought I would hear Desmond Tutu and Martin Luther King III and Eli Pariser of MoveOn.org. That is what didn't happen.

I traveled down with a lot of Albany area folks on a bus chartered by Women Against War. On the bus we were completely briefed and organized into affinity groups. I was linked up with seven strangers, responsible for each other no matter what happened. We read our packets about civil disobedience and the Code

Orange alert for possible terrorist attacks. We studied the city maps. Halfway to NYC our bus captain got the word from city officials that NYC had now gone to Code Red. This meant the bridges would be closed, public transportation halted. We would be searched as we got off the buses. We would not be allowed to carry our backpacks.

At this point, fifty people got down their backpacks and began eating their sandwiches. It was only a little past breakfast time.

Then we were told to write the ACLU lawyers' phone numbers on our forearms, also the cell phone numbers of our bus driver and the bus captain. We would not be allowed off the bus unless we put these numbers on our body. My seatmate wanted no part of the inky forearm, but finally she gave in.

I wondered if this Code Red might be a scare tactic to get us to turn around and go home, and sure enough, we got another message that it had been a false alarm. Too late for us, though, we were already inky of forearm and bursting with sandwich.

I never got anywhere near Desmond Tutu. The police met us coming out of Grand Central Station and herded us north, with horses and cars and helmets and sticks. We understood we had a permit to congregate at First Ave. and 49th St., but we weren't allowed to go there. It was me and my seven affinity pals, keeping track of each other, staying together no matter what, even when the police tried to erect a barricade in the middle of our part of the crowd, separating Katsu and Kitty and me from the rest of them. We had a spunky thirteen-year-old named Angel who was eager for confrontation, arrest. Her mother put her foot down at this and said absolutely not. There is no sulking like that of a thirteen-year-old thwarted from direct action by Mom. But later it was Mom who shook her fist in the faces of the armored police. "Whose streets? Our streets!" she yelled. And it was Angel who said, plaintively, "Mama! Come back!"

My affinity family. I'll never see them again and I don't know their last names. They were the best part of that rally, for me—also one other thing. Suddenly, out

of all the frustration and mayhem, I heard the touchstone voice of Pete Seeger. He has been making me feel better about things my whole life, and I heard him speaking from a radio on the shoulder of a very short woman walking past me in the street. He said, "I can't sing anymore, so you'll have to sing this one for me, for all our Rainbow World. Come on now!" Then he began lining it out. Maybe he had his banjo and maybe half a million people on the other side of Manhattan were singing with him in a great euphoric crowd. But where I was, it was just me and the very short woman. Pete said, "Somewhere, over the rainbow ..." And she and I sang it. Pete said, "Way up high ..." Tears were rolling down my frozen cheeks. I never even saw the face of the woman I was singing with—it was on the other side of the radio. I could hear her, though, and we sang the song.

I got back to Albany just in time to race up to Saratoga and play with my band. I never got to say good-bye to my affinity pals, but I carry them just like I've carried Pete Seeger all these years, with love and gratitude.

Peace is the way,

— Bonner J. McAllester, Monterey

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## Calendar

### Every Monday (except holidays):

Selectboard meeting, 8:30 a.m.-12 noon; Town Offices.

**Wednesday, March 5:** Ash Wednesday

**Thursday, March 6:** Republican caucus, 7:30 p.m.

**Monday, March 10:** Democratic caucus, 7 p.m.

**Wednesday, March 12:**

Monterey Food Co-op order distribution and pickup, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Meetinghouse basement.

Community Dinner, 6 p.m. Meetinghouse fellowship hall. Entertainment by Berkshire Mountain Ramblers. See p. 3.

**Thursday, March 13:** Free blood pressure clinic, 2:30-3:30 p.m., Town Hall, administered by Visiting Nurses Assoc.

**Saturday, March 15:** Rabies clinic for dogs and cats, 1:30-3:00 p.m., Monterey Firehouse. \$9 fee. Dog licenses also available.

**Sunday, March 16:** Talk by award-winning author Michael Pollan on "The Politics of Eating," 2 p.m., St. James Church, 352 Main Street, Great Barrington. Admission \$10 at door. See p. 6.

**Monday, March 17:** St. Patrick's Day

**Tuesday, March 18:** Full Moon

**Friday, March 21:** Spring arrives.



**Saturday, March 22:** Maple Sugar Moon

Dance & 25th Anniversary Party, 8:00 p.m.-midnight, Sheffield Grange, Rt. 7, Sheffield. Music by Mountain Laurel with Bill Smith, calling by Sarah Gregory Smith. Refreshments plus special entertainment: songs, skit "Mable and Moon Reunited." Adults \$8, children \$4. Info 528-9385.

**Wednesday, March 26:** Pick up daffodils ordered to support American Cancer Society at Monterey General Store.

**Saturday, April 5:** Sandisfield Historical Society spring dance, "The Spring Fling," 8 p.m.-midnight, Fire House #2. Admission \$10 for adults, \$5 for children; includes Dan Daniel's Country Western Band, a light buffet, and refreshments. Proceeds to benefit the Meeting House Extension. Reservations appreciated. Call Norton Fletcher for information, 413-258-4520.

## The Observer January 26-February 25

High temp. (2/22) .....	50°
Low temp. (1/28, 2/17) .....	minus 7°
Avg. high temp. ....	26.6°
Avg. low temp. ....	8.4°
Avg. temp. ....	17.5°
Total precipitation (rain and melted snow) .....	4.08"
Snowfall .....	37.1"
Precipitation occurred on 20 days:	

For comparison, the average temperature for the same period last year was 30.5° and the snowfall was 5.0".

## Contributors

We are grateful to the following people for recent contributions to the *News*.

John Callahan

Barbara Swann

Daniel Zweig & Sally Petrick



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Contributions from local artists this month:

Pat Arnow, pp. 2, 3, 6, 7, 10, 22, 23(r);

Maureen Banner, pp. 4, 23(t); George Emmons, p. 17;

Bonner McAllester, p. 15; Glynis Oliver, pp. 9, 19.

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